

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **13 APRIL 2005 (13.04.2005)**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
FP05001PC

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/KR2005/000018

International filing date (day/month/year)

05 JANUARY 2005 (05.01.2005)

Priority date(day/month/year)

19 MARCH 2004 (19.03.2004)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC7 A41B 11/08

Applicant

YOON, Min Seok

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR



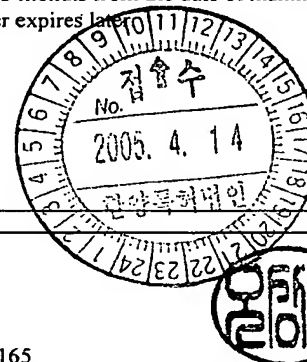
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/KR2005/000018

Box No. 1 Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/KR2005/000018

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations :

Reference is made to the following documents identified in the International Search Report (ISR):

D1 : JP 11-12802 A (19 January 1999)
D2 : JP 09-310201 A (02 December 1997)

The claimed invention relates to a heel protector including a body member made of a flexible fabric material for being worn on the feet and an inner pad member coupled to an inside of the body member for accommodation to an area where a heel is located when the heel protector is worn.

D1 discloses socks obtained by (A)two-dimensionally expanding the heel section of the inner layer of each of the socks at least to the condition that the socks are actually put on, (B)attaching a synthetic resin sheet to the expanded heel section, the resin sheet having a sufficient size to cover at least the heel section, (C)sewing the edge of the synthetic resin sheet into the inner layer, (D)releasing the expanded condition of the heel section to relax the synthetic resin sheet, and (E)laminating the inner layer on the outer layer of each of the socks.

D2 discloses socks having a dual structure composed of an inner socks and an outer socks, and having an unbreathable sheet interposed between the inner socks and the outer socks in a part corresponding to the heel. The unbreathable sheet is approximately rectangular and has gathered pleats formed by creasing the sheet across the transversal center line of the sheet.

The feature of the present invention, such that two areas of the inner pad member accommodated to both lateral sections of the heel are coupled to the body member and the inner pad member can relatively slide in relation to the body member when the heel protector is worn, is not disclosed in D1 and D2. Therefore, the subject matter of claims 1 to 5 is novel pursuant to PCT Article 33(2).

The subject matter of claims 1 to 5 is considered to involve an inventive step pursuant to PCT Article 33(3), since it refers to an improved product, such as a heel protector wherein friction generated on the heels while walking can be subdued by inner pad member to thereby prevent formation of calluses or blisters, which is not known or even suggested in the prior art, particularly in D1 and D2.

Claims 1 to 5 also meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), because all the claims are considered to be industrially applicable.